The embodiments of the invention in which an exclusive property or privilege is claimed are defined as follows:

1. Use of a soluble recombinant human CD40L or a functional fragment thereof containing the active binding site of CD40 and capable of binding thereto, for inhibiting an immune response.

2. The use of claim 1, wherein the soluble recombinant human CD40L has a sequence comprised in amino acids 108 to 261 of sequence set forth in SEQ ID NO:1.

3. The use of claim 2, wherein the immune response is an alloimmune response.

4. The use of claim 3, wherein the alloimmune response is a human anti-HLA alloimmune response.

5. Use of a soluble recombinant human CD40L or a functional fragment thereof containing the active binding site of CD40 and capable of binding thereto, for inhibiting T cell function.

6. The use of claim 5, wherein the soluble recombinant human CD40L has a sequence comprised in amino acids 108 to 261 of sequence set forth in SEQ ID NO:1.

7. The use of claim 6, wherein the immune response is an alloimmune response.

8. The use of claim 7, wherein the alloimmune response is a human anti-HLA alloimmune response.

9. The use of claim 5, for treating or preventing a disease selected from the group consisting of systemic lupus erythematosus (SLE), sjögren's syndrome, sleroderma myositis, Raynaud's syndrome, type 1 diabetes, arthritis and rheumatoid arthritis, inflammatory bowel disease, uveitis, myesthenia gravis, multiple sclerosis, idiopathic thrombocytopenic purpura and graft vs host disease as well as allergies which are dependent on T cells.

10. Use of a soluble recombinant human CD40L or a functional fragment thereof containing the active binding site of CD40 and capable of binding thereto, for the preparation of a medicament for immunotherapy.

11. Use of a soluble recombinant human CD40L or a functional fragment thereof containing the active binding site of CD40 and capable of binding thereto, for the preparation of a medicament for treating or preventing a disease selected from the group consisting of systemic lupus erythematosus (SLE), sjögren's syndrome, sleroderma myositis, Raynaud's syndrome, type 1 diabetes, arthritis and rheumatoid arthritis, inflammatory bowel disease, uveitis, myesthenia gravis, multiple sclerosis, idiopathic thrombo-cytopenic purpura and graft vs host disease as well as allergies which are dependent on T cells.

12. Use of an immunodeficient mouse model of human alloimmunization for testing *in vivo* effects of an immunotherapy or inhibition of a human antibody response, said mouse model being an immunodeficient mouse, reconstituted with human peripheral blood lymphocytes (PBL) from donors.

13. The use of claim 12, wherein the immunodeficient mouse is γ-irradiated and asialoGM$_1$ treated for enhancing cellular engraftment.

14. The use of claim 12, wherein the donors are sensitized to HLA antigens.

15. A method for inhibiting an immune response in a patient, comprising the step of administering a therapeutically effective amount of a soluble recombinant human CD40L or a functional fragment thereof containing the active binding site of CD40 and capable of binding thereto.

16. The method of claim 15, wherein the soluble recombinant human CD40L has a sequence comprised in amino acids 108 to 261 of sequence set forth in SEQ ID NO:1.

17. The method of claim 16, wherein the immune response is an alloimmune response.

18. The method of claim 17, wherein the alloimmune response is a human anti-HLA alloimmune response.

19. A method for inhibiting T cell function in a patient, comprising the step of administering a therapeutically effective amount of a soluble recombinant human CD40L or a functional fragment thereof containing the active binding site of CD40 and capable of binding thereto.

20. The method of claim 19, wherein the soluble recombinant human CD40L has a sequence comprised in

amino acids 108 to 261 of sequence set forth in SEQ ID NO:1.

21. The method of claim 20, wherein the immune response is an alloimmune response.

22. The method of claim 21, wherein the alloimmune response is a human anti-HLA alloimmune response.

23. The method of claim 19, for treating or preventing a disease selected from the group consisting of systemic lupus erythematosus (SLE), sjögren's syndrome, sleroderma myositis, Raynaud's syndrome, type 1 diabetes, arthritis and rheumatoid arthritis, inflammatory bowel disease, uveitis, myesthenia gravis, multiple sclerosis, idiopathic thrombocytopenic purpura and graft vs host disease as well as allergies which are dependent on T cells.

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